AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 12, lines 6 – 16 with the following amended paragraph:

The disable module 42 determines the action to take relative to the adaptive filter 44. The adaptive filter 44 may be bypassed (deactivated) or the adaptive filter 44 may have its adaptation frozen. Alternatively, the adaptive ~~filer~~ filter 44 may continue to operate. The disable module 42 determines which of these actions to take. Based upon the comparison of x(n) and y'(n) received over leads 45 and 49 respectively, it can be determined whether both of these signals are carrier signals. Depending upon both of these determinations, then the disable module 42 determines whether the proper action to take is to freeze adaptation or to bypass the adaptation filter or to do nothing. The disable module 42 is activated by the lead 37, which indicates whether either the far-end or the near-end signals are data signals. If neither of the near-end or far-end signals are data signals, then no action relative to the adaptation filter 44 need be taken.

Please replace the paragraph at page 18, lines 8 – 10 with the following amended paragraph:

The echo is added to the near-end audio signal (lead 47). The adaptive filter 44 ~~is to~~ estimates the characteristics of the echo and then subtracts these characteristics from the near-end signal to form the return signal. Therefore, a need exists to bypass the echo canceller.

Please replace the paragraph at page 21, lines 1 – 14 with the following amended paragraph:

A data signal indicator 416 is coupled to the generated action module 410. When the data signal indicator is asserted, the generate action module 410 is activated. The carrier signal detect signal receives the far-end input x(n), over a lead 418 and the near-end input y'(n), over the lead 420. The carrier signal detect module 408 determines if at least one input is a carrier (data) signal. The convergence determination module 402 determines whether the adaptive filter will diverge for data signals. Convergence is determined if Echo Return Loss Enhancement is greater than a threshold. Typically, the threshold is 16 db. A determination in is then made if there are significant coefficients in the adaptive filter that focus on the beginning of the adaptive filter and follow the pattern described by equations (17) and (29). If the answer is affirmative, convergence exists. If the answer is negative, convergence does not exit. In any case, the convergence determination module 402 outputs a convergence detected lead 404 that indicates that convergence was detected and a no convergence detected lead 406, which indicates that no convergence was detected. The leads 404 and 406 are coupled to the generated action module 410.